

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-04 AID-05 EUR-08 NEA-06

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O R 011115Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9983

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU'S NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS (SALIENT POINT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PASS IMMEDIATELY IBS/NCA

REF: SAIGON 13806

1. FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT POINTS MADE IN PRESIDENT THIEU'S ADDRESS:

2. PRESIDENT THIEU ASSERTED THAT THE "THING OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE" WAS TO SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM FALLING INTO COMMUNIST HANDS. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE INTENSIFYING MILITARY ATTACKS AND THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE POLITICAL DISTURBANCES AND NATION-WIDE UNREST. HE WARNED THE NATION

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UNLESS CAUTION WAS EXERCISED IT COULD SOON BE LOST TO

THE COMMUNISTS.

3. THE PRESIDENT ASSERTED THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NEVER SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT IF THEY FAILED TO ACHIEVE VICTORY BY FORCE OF ARMS, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RESORT TO MILITARY FORCE UNTIL THEY GET A COALITION GOVERNMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CHARACTERIZED THE "THIRD FORCE" AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE USING TO CREATE A COALITION GOVERNMENT AS A STEP TOWARD TAKING OVER SOUTH VIETNAM. THUS, PRESIDENT STRONGLY REJECTS COMMUNIST CONCEPTION OF "THIRD FORCE" AND DENOUNCES THOSE CLAIMING MEMBERSHIP IN THIRD FORCE AS COMMUNISTS OR POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS.

4. IN AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO FATHER THANH AND OTHER RADICAL OPPOSITION LEADERS, THIEU SAID THAT TO THOSE WHO INCITE THE PEOPLE TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, "NEW FACES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN LURED AND BOUGHT OVER BY THE COMMUNISTS AND COLONIALISTS." THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT THE JUST ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE AND OF THE ARMY WERE BEING EXPLOITED FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES AND PERSONAL AMBITION UNDER THE PRETENSE OF ERADICATION OF VICES AND CORRUPTION.

5. THE PRESIDENT PROMISED CONTINUING REFORM PROGRAMS. CORRUPTION WOULD BE ATTACKED AND EFFICIENCY PROMOTED. MEASURES WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO MEET COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE PRESS (DL-007) AND POLITICAL PARTY (DL-060) LAWS WOULD BE AMENDED IN NOVEMBER. IN SPEAKING OF CORRUPTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT SOCIAL EVILS WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE GOVERNMENT BUT WERE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE SOCIETY. "IS THERE ANYONE WHO DARES TO CLAIM HIMSELF A PERFECT AND HONEST MAN?" HE THEN APPEALED TO LEADERS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO HELP HIM IN THE WORK OF SOCIAL REFORM TO BUILD A SOUND ECONOMY AND A STRONG SOCIETY ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS BOTH POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY.

6. HE ASKED A SERIES OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS WHICH HE ANSWERED NEGATIVELY. DID THE PEOPLE THINK:

--TOPPLING THE CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME WOULD MAKE THE SOUTH STRONGER AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS?

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--CREATION OF A "THIRD FORCE" AND COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE US PEACE?

--SOCIAL EVILS CAN BE ERADICATED BY ALLOWING COMMUNISTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS?

--VIOLENCE AND DISORDER HELP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL

WELFARE PROGRAMS AND TO REDRESS SOCIETY? AND FINALLY:

--TO ALLOW A GROUP OF PERSONS TO EXPLOIT PRESS FREEDOM, DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES TO PROPAGATE GROUNDLESS NEWS, TO CREATE RELIGIONS DIVISIONS AND LOCAL DISCRIMINATIONS, TO DEFAME DELIBERATELY ANTI-COMMUNIST NATIONALISTS, TO DIVIDE THE NATIONALISTS IN THE SOUTH, TO SLANDER THE GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TO DEMORALIZE THE SOLDIERS IN THE FRONT LINE, TO UNDERMINE THE ECONOMY IN THE REAR, TO FRIGHTEN FOREIGN INVESTORS, TO PARALYZE NATIONAL ECONOMY, TO KEEP THE WORLD FROM HELPING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. DO YOU THINK THAT ALL OF THESE HELP MAKE US MORE POWERFUL TO DEFEAT THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS? CERTAINLY NOT.

7. HE APPEALED FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF MEN OF GOOD WILL THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE OPINIONS, CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS AND REALISTIC ACTS. AS NATIONAL LEADER HE VOWED TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY UNDER LAW, TO PRESERVE THE SPIRIT OF THE ARMY, SECURITY, AND PUBLIC ORDER.

8. IN CLOSING, THE PRESIDENT RECALLED COUNTRY WOULD SOON "HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELECT A NEW LEADER AND ALL WOULD BE ENTIRELY FREE WITH YOUR FREE AND DEMOCRATIC VOTE TO CHOOSE" SUCH A LEADER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740312-1066
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741179/aaaacoxy.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 13806
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT THIEU'S NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS (SALIENT POINT) CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, VS, (THIEU, NGUYEN VAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005